EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Approved April 3, 2008
Not Approved _____

MEMBERSHIP
Approved April 10, 2008
Not Approved

ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION NO. 6
2008

Safer Chemical Policies

WHEREAS, The U.S. chemical industry designs, produces, and imports 42 billion pounds of chemical substances per day, with global production growing a projected 4-fold by 2050;[1,2] and

WHEREAS, Many of the substances useful to society are also hazardous to human and ecosystem health. Hazardous chemical exposure poses the greatest threat to children and to women before and throughout reproductive age, impacting children's health, development, behavior, and learning, with exposure to neurotoxic chemicals during critical child development periods linked to lifelong deficits in brain function[3]; and

WHEREAS, The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the 1976 federal statute intended to regulate chemicals before and during their use in commerce, has, according to numerous independent analyses, [4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11] fallen short of its objectives by failing to serve as a vehicle for effective public, industrial, and governmental *assessment* of the hazards of chemicals in commerce and *control* those of greatest health concern. Among TSCA's failings are: it does not require chemical producers to generate or disclose chemical hazard information on the more than 80,000 chemicals registered for use in commerce, nor the 2000 new chemicals introduced each year; it requires government to meet an excessively high standard of proof before acting to protect public or environmental health, primarily allowing protective action only after chemicals have caused harm; and it does not encourage prevention through the development and use of safer alternatives;[11,12,13] and

WHEREAS, Under TSCA, current market conditions fail to safeguard public health, creating problems including: the appearance of hundreds of industrial chemicals in human tissues and fluids, including the cord blood of infants;[14,15] the development of chronic diseases and premature death related to chemical exposures in the workplace; and disproportionate risks due to chemical exposures among members of minority, immigrant, and low-income communities;[11] and

WHEREAS, Sweeping changes in public and environmental health policy in the European Union are driving global interest in cleaner technologies, including safer chemicals.[16] On its current trajectory, the United States is becoming a market for

hazardous substances no longer permitted for sale in the European Union and other regions that are taking steps to implement modern chemicals policies;[17]

FINALLY WHEREAS,
on a global level fundamental changes are needed in the way that societies manage chemicals, Environment Ministers, Health Ministers and other delegates from over 100 governments together with representatives of civil society and the private sector declared in Dubai, February 6, 2006, that the environment worldwide continues to suffer from air, water and land contamination, impairing the health and welfare of millions. They adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a global plan of action whose stated goal is: to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, The IPHA calls upon the State of Illinois and the United States to implement a modern, comprehensive chemicals policy in line with current scientific knowledge on human health. The Toxic Substances Control Act should be restructured to:

(1) Require chemical producers to provide comprehensive chemical hazard information in forms that are appropriate for use by the public, workers, industry, and government; and
(2) Assess the human and environmental hazards of chemicals in commercial use and reduce or eliminate the use of those of greatest concern; and
(3) Introduce mechanisms to motivate investment, education, and research in safer "green" chemical technology; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The IPHA supports Illinois legislative efforts to protect the public, particularly children, from harmful chemicals in consumer products to reduce public exposure to toxic chemicals and improve the health of Illinois citizens.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the IPHA requests that the APHA carry this resolution to the World Federation of Public Health Association supporting and urging involvement in the SAICM process leading to the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

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